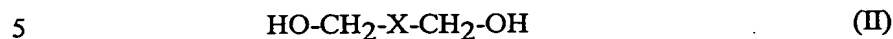


Claims

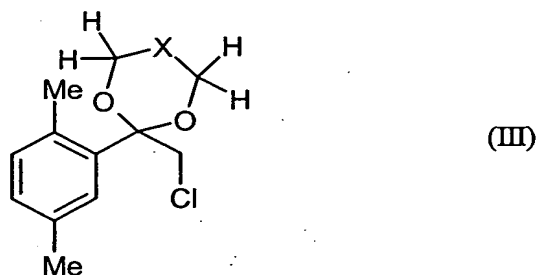
1. A method for preparing 2,5-dimethylphenylacetic acid, characterized in that p-xylene is converted with chloroacetyl chloride in a Friedel-Crafts reaction into 2-chloro-1-(2,5-dimethylphenyl)ethanone, which is reacted with the compound of the formula (II)



in which

X is a direct single bond, CH_2 , CHCH_3 , $\text{C}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ or $\text{C}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$,

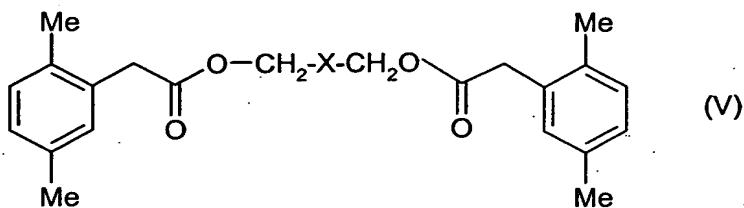
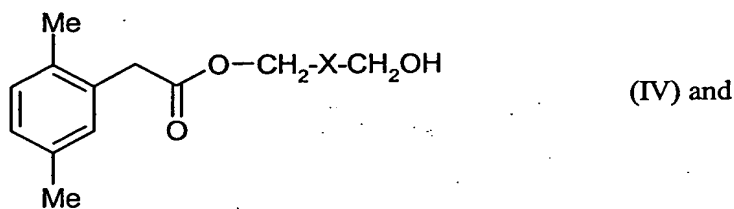
to give the compound of the formula (III)



10 in which

X has the meaning indicated above;

the compound of the formula (III) is then rearranged to give a mixture of the formulae (IV) and (V)

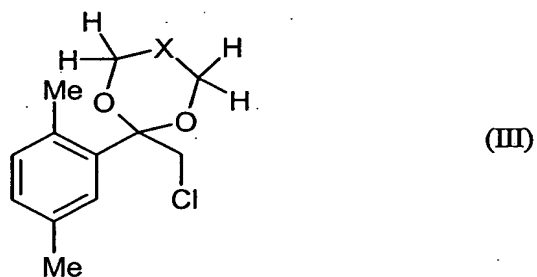


in which

X has the meanings indicated above,

and the latter is then hydrolyzed to 2,5-dimethylphenylacetic acid.

2. The method for preparing 2,5-dimethylphenylacetic acid as claimed in claim 1, where X is
5 a direct single bond, CH_2 , $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ or $\text{C}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$.
3. The method for preparing 2,5-dimethylphenylacetic acid as claimed in claim 1, where X is
a direct single bond, $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ or $\text{C}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$.
4. A compound of the formula (III)



10 in which

X has the meanings indicated above.